

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 073641

O P 101701Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO USDEL DEAUVILLE IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3823
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 23232

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC PARM US FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH PROTEST SENIOR OFFICIAL ON PLANE'S
REMARKS

1. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO OUR DISCUSSION YESTERDAY, AND ON
TELEPHONED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SECRETARY I CALLED
ON FRANCOIS DE LABOULAYE, DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL
AFFAIRS AT THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY, TO CLARIFY
OUR POSITION REGARDING RECENT PRESS ATTENTION TO THE
PAKISTANI PURCHASE OF A FRENCH NUCLEAR REPROCESSING
PLANT.

2. I TOLD DE LABOULAYE THAT THE SECRETARY HAD ASKED
ME TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO EVOKE THE STATEMENTS
ATTRIBUTED TO A "HIGH OFFICIAL" ABOARD THE SECRETARY'S
PLANE. I NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD NOT INTENDED
ANY CONFRONTATION OR THREATS BUT THAT IN REPLY TO A
JOURNALIST'S QUESTION REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE
SYMINGTON AMENDMENT THE SECRETARY HAD ANSWERED WE
WOULD COMPLY. THIS RESPONSE HAD BEEN EXTRAPOLATED AND
BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION BY THE PRESS.

3. I REITERATED TO DE LABOULAYE THAT THE SAFEGUARDS
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IN THE FRANCO-PAKISTANI AGREEMENT ARE NOT AT ISSUE.

THEY ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE IAEA REQUIREMENTS.
SECONDLY, I NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY WISHES TO DIS-
CUSS THIS MATTER IN A PRIVATE AND NON-CONFRONTATIONAL
MANNER, AND THAT IN SEVERAL WEEKS HE WOULD DISCUSS
THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH THE MOST SENIOR LEVELS OF THE
GOF. THE SECRETARY WOULD LIKE TO AVOID FURTHER PUBLI-
CITY IN THIS MATTER AND WOULD SEEK TO AVOID FURTHER
PRESS FOCUS AS EVIDENCED BY HIS RESPONSES TO THE PRESS
THIS MORNING.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 23232

EXDIS

4. FOR HIS PART, DE LABOULAYE NOTED THE FACT THAT
MOST FRENCH NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN VERY CRITICAL OF THE
SECRETARY'S REMARKS. THE KOREAN PRECEDENT, HE NOTED,
DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY EASIER FOR THE GOF, AND IT MUST
AVOID THE CRITICISM THAT "FRANCE HAS YIELDED AGAIN."
IN AN ASIDE, DE LABOULAYE NOTED THAT PRIME MINISTER
CHIRAC HAD THE TICKER ITEM THAT THE AMERICAN CHARGE
HAD BEEN RECEIVED SIMPLY BY THE "MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS" REENFORCED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT IN FACT IT WAS
DE LABOULAYE WHO HAD MET WITH ME.

5. AT THIS MOMENT, DE LABOULAYE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE
CALL FROM SAUVAGNARGUES, ON VACATION IN GASSIN.

SAUVAGNARGUES NOTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE SECRETARY THIS MORNING, AND THAT ALSO, HE WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH CHIRAC ABOUT THE ISSUANCE OF A STATEMENT.

6. DE LABOULAYE TOOK NOTE OF THE SECRETARY'S POINTS AND REITERATED THAT THE GOF WAS CONCERNED MORE WITH THE METHOD OF THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS A "TOTAL SURPRISE." HE REITERATED THAT THIS EVENT HAD GIVEN THE IDEA THAT THE USG IS EXERTING PRESSURE ON PAKISTAN, AND INDIRECTLY ON CONFIDENTIAL

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FRANCE TO MODIFY OR CANCEL THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT. HE REAFFIRMED THAT PAKISTAN AND FRANCE BOTH WANT TO STICK BY THIS AGREEMENT, AND THAT AT THE TIME THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED, ALL RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL RULES AND SAFEGUARDS WERE BEING OBSERVED. DE LABOULAYE CLOSED BY OBSERVING THAT THE GOF IS WILLING TO CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH US IN A NON-CONFRONTATIONAL MANNER AND WILL ALSO SEEK TO AVOID FUELLING PRESS FIRES.
GAMMON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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